

Story #346 (Collected orally and then in  
written form; not taped)

Narrator: Hâle Kutlay

Location: Ankara

Date: November 1961

The Old Wolf's Dinner

Once there was an old wolf. One day, feeling very hungry, he went to search for food. He walked and walked, and finally he saw a sheep. He said to the sheep, "Mr. Sheep, I will eat you."

*Don't eat  
wolf*

The sheep answered, "Eat me, Mr. Wolf, but I have one last wish that you might grant me before I die. Please, may I tell you what it is?"

The wolf asked, "What is it?"

The sheep replied, "I want to dance for you."

The wolf thought it would be pleasant to watch a dance, and so he said, "All right. You can dance for me."

Then the sheep began to dance, but as he was dancing he got away. As the wolf was very old and weak, he could not catch the sheep.

Again the wolf began searching for food. He walked and walked and walked. Then he saw an old mule. He said to the mule, "Mr. Mule, I will eat you."

The mule replied, "Eat me, Mr. Wolf, but I am old, and my bones are too hard for your teeth. Let me bring you an axe."

"Well," thought the wolf, "that will make it easier for me to eat him, so let him bring the axe." Therefore, he said "All right" to the mule. The mule went to get the axe, and of course he did not come back.

After that, the wolf began searching for food again. He walked and



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walked and walked. Then he saw a horse. He said to the horse, "Mr. Horse, I will eat you."

The horse replied, "Eat me, Mr. Wolf. But I have one last request before I die. Please, will you do something for me?"

The wolf asked, "What is it?"

The horse answered, "There is a message about a patent written under my hoof. I want to know what is written there. Will you please read it to me?"

The wolf thought, "There is nothing wrong in this." So he replied, "All right." He walked around to the back of the horse and bent to read the message, but the horse kicked him and ran away.

The wolf, knowing that he must soon die of hunger, began to talk to himself:

"When you have found a sheep,  
Eat it and sleep.  
Is your understanding of dancing deep?  
Were you a dancer, stupid wolf?  
When you have found a mule,  
Eat it, you fool.  
Do you need an axe as a tool?  
Were you a butcher, stupid wolf?  
When you have found a horse,  
Eat it, of course.  
Must you understand patents perforce?"

*Read the  
wolf*

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Were you a judge, stupid wolf?<sup>1</sup> (in  
written form: not known.)

Author: Herman H. (1930)  
Title:

Location: Ankara

Date: April 1967

<sup>1</sup>The oral version of this fable is so commonly known that parts of the concluding poem have become widely used as proverbs.

One day a tiny mosquito sat on the rough, thick-skinned back of  
a water buffalo. Just then, a cow passed by, and the water buffalo was  
startled and started running as fast as he could go.

The poor mosquito, surprised at the extent of her flight, came to  
the edge of the water buffalo's ear and said, "Brother water buffalo,  
I didn't mean to hurt you or even when I sat down. Please forgive me."